

Odhikar's monthly report***BSF's killing spree******One Bangladeshi killed every two and half days in February 2008***

- **India Bangladesh border violence**

It is reported that the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed Bangladeshis at an alarming rate in February. Odhikar recorded 12 reported killings of Bangladeshis in this month alone, on average, one killing in every two and half days. Moreover, over this month, 4 Bangladeshis were reportedly injured and 3 allegedly abducted by the BSF. These killings and abductions were carried out in the backdrop of repeated Indian assurances from different levels regarding the stopping of such incidents, as reported by media in Bangladesh.

Such killings, injuries and abductions constitute grave violations of international law, abuse of human rights and are contrary to good neighbourly relations. Odhikar urges the Bangladesh Government to take immediate steps to protect and ensure right to life to all its citizens and prevent such killings of its nationals. Bangladesh should resort to all peaceful measures to stop these grave violations of human rights. Odhikar further urges the Government of India to take full responsibility for the actions of the BSF, order immediate halt to this practice, institute a full inquiry about these transgressions of BSF, prosecute those responsible and offer adequate compensation and reparation to victims and their families.

- **Extrajudicial Killing**

From 1-29 February 2008, 4 persons were reportedly killed by police in crossfire/encounter/shootout/gun fight, out of them, one reportedly was a member of Purbo Banglar Communist Party, the other one a member of New Biplobi Communist Party and while 2 were alleged dacoits.

- **Death in Jail**

It was reported that 12 people died in jail custody due to illness between 1 and 29 February 2008. Among them detained ward commissioner and BNP leader Abdul Qayyum Khan died. His family members claimed that he died due to lack of treatment.

- **Freedom of Expression**

One journalist was reportedly injured in this month while 2 more were threatened. It is to be noted that under the state of emergency the journalists are facing pressures from various Government sources in respect of publishing factual reports contrary to rights guaranteed under the constitution and international law.

- **Rape**

In February 24 women and girls were reportedly the victims of rape. Of these victims, 13 were adults and 11 girls¹. Out of these 13 women, 6 were reportedly killed after being raped, 1 committed suicide after rape and 8 were victims of gang rape, while 2 girls were reportedly raped and then killed and 4 became victims of gang rape.

¹ As per the Children's Act 1974, an adult is a person above the age of 16 years.

- **Acid Violence**

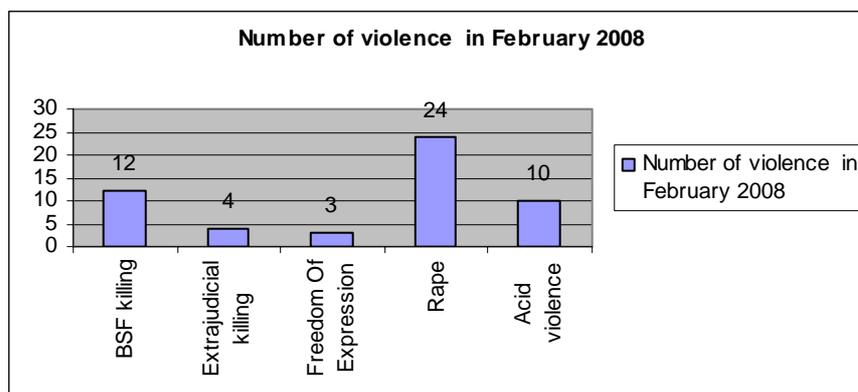
In February, a total of 10 persons reportedly fell victim to acid violence, among them, 5 were women, 3 children (2 girls and 1 boy) and 2 men.

The Home Secretary revealed in this month some striking facts following a meeting on draft rules to implement the 2002 legislations² on acid violence. Though a draft implementing law was available, it was never finalized. He gave statistical run down that since the introduction of the 2002 law, a total of 1,440 acid attack cases have been filed, of which 322 cases are currently under trial, in 842 cases, charge sheets have been submitted, while investigations are going on in 30 cases.

He further said, only in 13% of cases accused persons were convicted and the rest acquitted, because allegations could not be proved as a result of social pressures. Odhikar demands prompt adoption of rules pursuant to the 2002 Acts and to constitute a Committee to examine causes of the very low levels of conviction in acid violence cases and take remedial measures, including providing compensation to victims of acid violence.

*Statistics of Human Rights violations
February 2008*

Name of the violation	Number of violence
BSF killing	12
Extrajudicial killing	4
Freedom of Expression	3
Rape	24
Acid violence	10



Odhikar Recommendations:

- Government should take proper steps to stop killing Bangladeshi citizens by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

² The Acid Crime Control Act 2002 and the Acid Control Act 2002

- Government should take actions to stop acts of violence against women and children and effectively prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with the law.
- Government must end intimidation of and ensure freedom of expression.
- Stop extra-judicial killings and torture. Hold independent judicial inquiries into extra-judicial killings and prosecute all those found responsible.

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